Apply to sit on the PSAC

The Student Plan:

Toward Restructuring FSU's Presidential Search Process

The current state of the Florida State University's presidential search has been summed up in two words by the head of the search firm once employed by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC).

"a sham"
-*William Funk*

Though the public has disagreed with Mr. Funk on many fronts, we believe that this is a completely accurate description. Highly political, non-university interests have been given a majority on the (PSAC) and have demonstrated through their May 21st vote to streamline the application process for Senator John Thrasher that they are completely willing to overpower the voice of Faculty and Student representatives.

We do not believe that there is any way that this PSAC, as it is currently structured, can move forward in a presidential search with any legitimacy. The infamous May 21st vote was a demonstration of a bad faith effort on the part of non-university members of the PSAC. As such, it stands the current search has forfeited any semblance of integrity. A complete lack of action in the face of a University wide call to restructure the PSAC was described by FSU Board of Trustees Chair Allan Bense as "righting the ship". This ship, in fact, is still distressed.

The following is a rescue plan proposed by the Students of FSU.

The PSAC shall consist of at least ⅓ Students, ⅓ Faculty and the remaining members may be made up of other University stakeholders and *appropriately* interested community members. The Students and Faculty will be selected by an open application process, and the remaining members may be selected by the BOT chair. This will ensure that only appropriate interests have control over the Presidential selection process, while still making room for the voices of the community to be heard. This is in contrast to the current structure, in which the voices of the students and faculty are tolerated, though they have no meaningful voting power. Right now 65% of the votes lie in the hands of non-university representatives. This is entirely unacceptable.

We, a committee of various FSU students (from several student organizations) have created an application process by which all Students and Faculty may apply to have seats on the new PSAC. We will create applicant lists, one of Students and one of Faculty, which can be added to the committee. These will be updated and ordered as more applications are received.

In addition to the lists of Students and Faculty, we propose a ordered list of current PSAC members that may be removed as to reduce the total size of the committee.
If Chair Bense would like the current members of the committee all to stay, then our plan requires the addition of 16 Faculty seats and 17 Student seats. This would result in a 60 person committee, and is not recommended here.

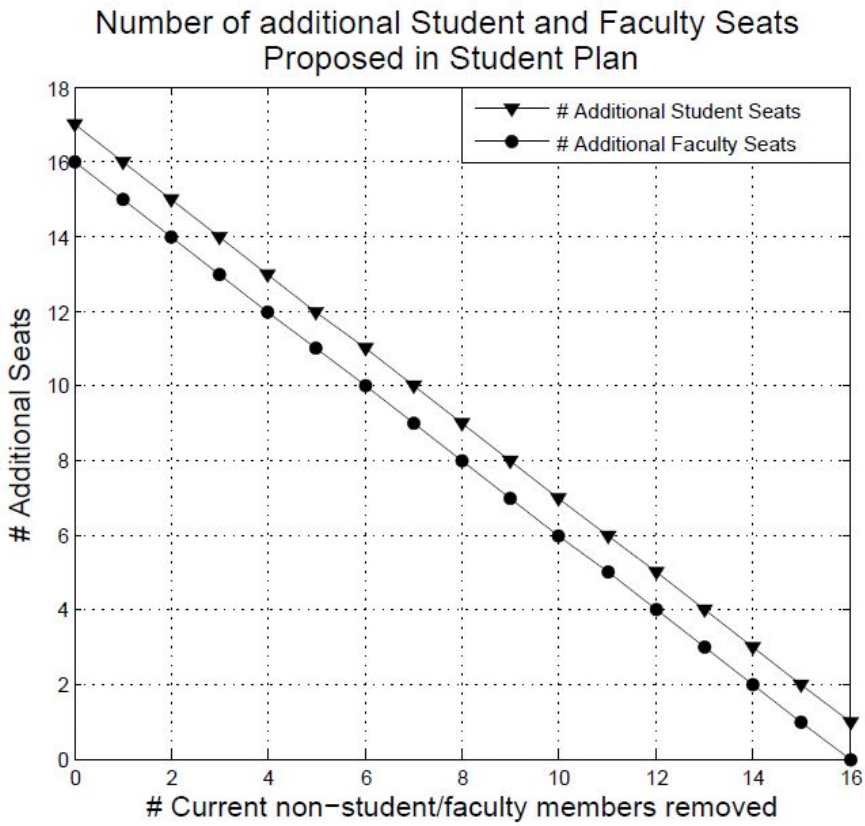

Figure 1 demonstrates how many student/faculty seats should be appointed in relation to the number of current seats removed by Chair Bense.

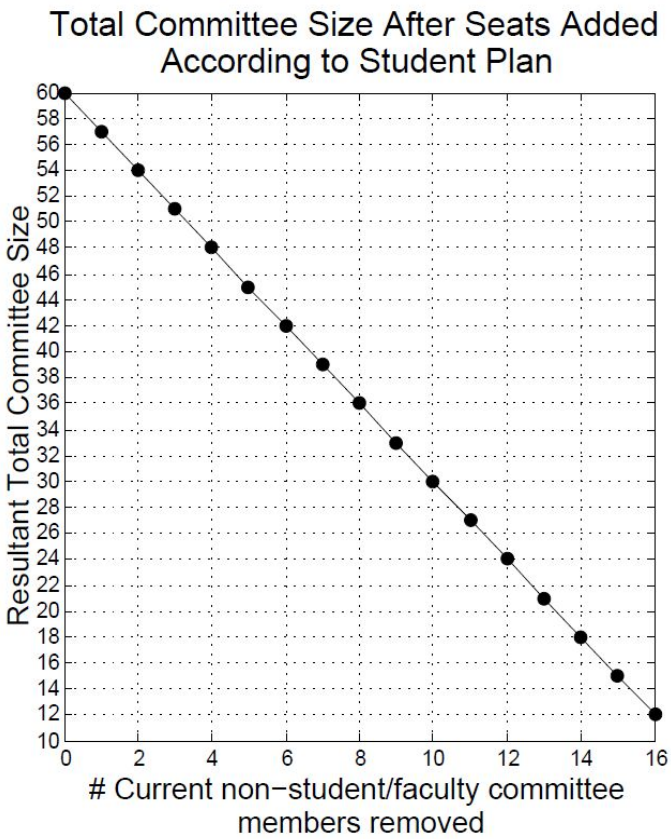

Figure 2 demonstrates the total size of PSAC in relation to the number of current seats removed by Chair Bense.

We recommend removing 15 of the current non-faculty/student PSAC members. More specifically, we recommend the removal of all those that voted to streamline Senator Thrasher in the application process in the May 21, 2014 vote. This would result in only two additional student seats and one additional faculty seat; thereby creating a 15 person committee.

Choosing the additional student/faculty seats

Inspired by a resolution from the FSU Congress of Graduate Students, we propose an open and democratic process by which to select the additional students and faculty on the PSAC.
If you are an FSU Faculty or Student, we are taking applications for additional students and faculty to sit on the restructured PSAC. We will be taking applications up until September 5th.

Apply HERE to be a student or faculty member of the FSU Presidential Search Advisory Committee!

ALL applications will be open to review by interested FSU students and faculty. Write to resetthesearch@gmail.com through a valid fsu email address and ask to be a member of the PSAC Restructuring Group. You will be contacted with a username and password for a reddit.com user account which you can use to up/down/no vote all recieved applications in a

closed "subreddit". The resulting list of applicants will be ordered by the voting members of the Group, and regardless of the total size Chair Bense prefers the PSAC to be, we will have exactly the right number of students and faculty to fill the seats.

We hope that Chair Bense accepts the restructuring proposal and eliminates further damage to FSU's reputation. ANY potential candidates that are forwarded without restructuring will be strongly opposed and asked to withdraw their candidacy.

Florida State University is a public academic institution and should be governed accordingly. The actions of the current PSAC have run contrary to the principles of academic governance[1]. Any resistance to restructure is counter to all expressed current public opinion and will be read as an act of political hostility. Specifically, we charge that this resistance will constitute a "conflict of interest" by Chair Bense. Chair Bense currently holds a simultaneous position as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the James Madison Institute (JMI). JMI is directly funded by the Charles Koch Charitable Foundation. In 2008 an agreement between the FSU Department of Economics and the Charles Koch Charitable Foundation (CKCH) has been nationally recognized as a violation of the integrity of Florida State University involving what the FSU Faculty Senate referred to as a "two-fold conflict of interest". Five years later, in 2013, FSU President Eric Barron was a signatory on a new FSU-Koch agreement. This "agreement" stood in glaring contradiction to the public outcry against the 2008 FSU-Koch alliance.

Given FSU's previous history with the Charles Koch Charitable Foundation, and its current links to JMI, any resistance to restructure on behalf of Chair Bense acts as a "conflict of interest" vis-à-vis FSU Board of Trustees' own "Ethics Policy". The BOT "Ethics Policy" states:

> ***"A Trustee has a conflict of interest whenever the Trustee, a Trustee's family member or a business associated[2] with a Trustee or a Trustee's family member has an existing or potential financial/personal interest in a matter pending before the Board of Trustees or the University."***

In conclusion, it is imperative that the selection of FSU's next President be independent of inappropriate "outside" influence. It has become clear that the only way that this can take place is by a complete restructure of the current PSAC. The Student's proposed restructure removes the current majority held by outside private interests and allows those with direct academic ties to the University to have a majority vote in the selection of FSU's next President.

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[1] American Association of University Professors' *1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities* states that: "Joint effort of a most critical kind must be taken when an institution chooses a new President. The selection of a chief administrative officer should follow upon a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking into consideration the opinions of others who are appropriately interested."

[2](2.b) Serves as an officer, director, partner, or employee; (from trustees.fsu.edu/ethics/)